

Amendments to the CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-90. (Canceled).

91. (New) A method of activating an electromagnetic consumer having a movable element, the method comprising:

ascertaining a switching instant within a time window, at which the movable element reaches a certain position; and

specifying a duration of the time window so that a current which flows through the consumer during the time window does not exceed a threshold value;

increasing the duration of the time window starting from a starting value if the current is smaller than the threshold value; and

decreasing the duration of the time window if the current is greater than the threshold value.

92. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein during the duration, the consumer has a supply voltage applied to it, and a characteristic of the current is evaluated for the ascertaining of the switching instant.

93. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the current is measured immediately before an end of the time window.

94. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the electromagnetic consumer having a movable element is a solenoid valve for controlling a metering of fuel into an internal combustion engine.

95. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein:

during the duration, the consumer has a supply voltage applied to it, and a characteristic of the current is evaluated for the ascertaining of the switching instant; and

the electromagnetic consumer having a movable element is a solenoid valve for controlling a metering of fuel into an internal combustion engine.

96. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein the current is measured immediately before an end of the time window.

97. (New) A device for activating an electromagnetic consumer having a movable element, comprising:

an arrangement to perform the following:

ascertaining a switching instant within a time window, at which the movable element reaches a certain position;

specifying a duration of the time window so that a current which flows through the consumer during the time window does not exceed a threshold value;

increasing the duration of the time window starting from a starting value if the current is smaller than the threshold value; and

decreasing the duration of the time window if the current is greater than the threshold value.

98. (New) The device of claim 97, wherein during the duration, the consumer has a supply voltage applied to it, and a characteristic of the current is evaluated for the ascertaining of the switching instant.

99. (New) The device of claim 97, wherein the current is measured immediately before an end of the time window.

100. (New) The device of claim 97, wherein the electromagnetic consumer having a movable element is a solenoid valve for controlling a metering of fuel into an internal combustion engine.

101. (New) The device of claim 97, wherein:

during the duration, the consumer has a supply voltage applied to it, and a characteristic of the current is evaluated for the ascertaining of the switching instant; and

the electromagnetic consumer having a movable element is a solenoid valve for controlling a metering of fuel into an internal combustion engine.

102. (New) The device of claim 101, wherein the current is measured immediately before an end of the time window.